

I want to make you aware of a great opportunity to honor our nation's veterans and preserve a vital piece of American history by participating in the Veterans History Project.

The Veterans History Project was commissioned by Congress in 2000 to gather and archive the personal recollections of U.S. wartime veterans and the civilians who supported our armed forces. The project, run by the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress, is the largest oral history program in American history, currently containing more than 50,000 one-of-a-kind stories in its collection.



Congressman Boyd (far right) in Vietnam

Recently, I had the opportunity to participate in the Veterans History Project and share my personal experience in Vietnam as a rifle platoon leader in the 101st Airborne Division. Reflecting on my service, remembering old friends, and reminiscing about our times together in Vietnam was a special experience for me. I believe it is important to teach our children and future generations about the contributions of those who have served our nation in past wars and those who continue to fight for our country today. By documenting reflections on military service, veterans can leave their memories as learning tools for future generations.

I encourage you to explore the website of the Veterans History Project (www.loc.gov/vets) and consider how you might get involved. The project website offers easy-to-follow guidelines to assist you. If you are a veteran, you can share your personal story, and others can participate by interviewing a relative or friend about their wartime remembrances. This valuable record will be protected as a part of the Library of Congress' permanent collection.

Again, I invite you to join me in the effort to record the stories of those who have served our nation. A Veterans History Project Field Kit to help you get started can be found online at <http://www.loc.gov/vets/pdf/fieldkit-2007.pdf>

. Also, if you have any questions, please contact Melanie Morris in my office at 202.225.5235. Thank you for considering this worthy project.